

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed July 12, 2005, the Examiner objected to claim 1 for containing informalities, rejected claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11, 12, 14-17, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on U.S. Patent 4,912,706 ("*Eisenberg*"), rejected claims 13 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on U.S. Patent No. 5,515,401 ("*Takenaka*"), rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on *Eisenberg* and *Takenaka*, and indicated claims 10 and 18 contain allowable subject matter.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating claims 10 and 18 contain allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 10 and 18, and amended claims 1, 13, 14, and 20 to include the allowable subject matter recited in claims 10 or 18. Applicants have also amended claims 1, 2, 13, 14, and 20 to improve form and/or to better define the claimed invention. Accordingly, the objection to claim 1 for containing informalities and the rejections of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or § 103(a) are moot.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-9, 11-17, 19, and 20 remain pending. Applicants submit this application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Applicants note that the Office Action contains numerous statements reflecting apparent assertions concerning the claims and cited art. Regardless of whether any

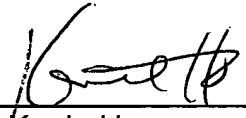
such statement is addressed specifically herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any assertion and/or characterization set forth in the Office Action.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 14, 2005

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